

From: Jeff Clayton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 6:40am
Subject: Against Proposed Anti-Trust Settlement with Microsoft

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the proposal to settle the Microsoft anti-trust action through donations to the public schools: this "solution" scandalously rewards and abets the anti-competitive practices it pretends to penalize.

It is true that there would be significant benefit to the schools.

However, the big winner in this affair would be Microsoft itself. Consumers, competitors, and the industry that Microsoft has so damaged by abusing its monopoly position, are in no way compensated.

* Microsoft escapes an overwhelming finding of fault with the least of penalties -- it gives away product, at small cost to itself, to a market in which sales are hard-won.

* This is tantamount to a marketing seed program. The tobacco industry must wonder how it failed to be directed to make amends to injured smokers by donating tobacco products to schools.

There has not been a penalty proposed which would fail its purpose so utterly, since Brer Rabbit was consigned to the briar patch in the Uncle Remus fable.

I urge any party to this proposal, who has the will and the ability to resist it, to refuse such an ineffective, cynical and outrageous settlement.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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